GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2376
ANSWERED ON:15.12.2008
INCREASE IN TELECOM OPERATORS
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Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to increase the number of telecom operators in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the time by which it is likely to be done; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY(SHRI A. RAJA)

(a) to (c) To increase the number of telecom operators in the country, the Government has issued 122 new Unified Access Services (UAS) Licenses in 22 service areas of the country during the year 2008. Now 12 to 14 telecom access services providers are licensed in all the 22 service areas in the country.There is no cap on number of access services licenses in a service area.Government envisages induction of telecom operators for 3G (Third Generation) Mobile and BWA (Broadband Wireless Access) Services as per guidelines issued on 1.8.2008. Licenses for provision of National Long Distance, International Long Distance and Internet Services are issued without any restriction on number of operators subject to fulfillment of eligibility conditions.